

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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APPROVED BY: ARA/LA/PLC-PM:JAWILLIAMS

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P 082119Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095241

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRASILIA 3192 SENT SECSTATE DATED MAY 6.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3192

STADIS

E.O. 116552: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BR

SUBJECT: MAP TRAINING FOR BRAZIL

REF: STATE 089030

1. ALTHOUGH I CERTAINLY SYMPATHIZE WITH THE PROBLEM THAT THE DEPT FACES, I BELIEVE THAT THE GOB WOULD REACT QUITE NEGATIVELY TO THE PROPOSAL AND THAT TO MAKE IT WOULD BE UNWISE.

2. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE BRAZILIAN ARMED FORCES STRONGLY PREFER CONUS TRAINING TO TRAINING IN THE CANAL ZONE. IF IT WERE ONLY A QUESTION OF SWITCHING TRAINING NOW SCHEDULED FOR PANAMA TO THE UNITED STATES, THE PROBLEM
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WOULD BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE--WITH ONE MAJOR RESERVATION.

THAT IS THAT 12 OF THE 23 PROJECTED TRAINING SLOTS IN THE CZ FOR FY 1975 ARE SLATED FOR BRAZILIAN ARMY PERSONNEL AT THE IAGS SCHOOL. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, THE BRAZILIAN ARMY REFUSED TO ACCEPT MAP TRAINING AFTER THE TEN PER CENT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT WAS INSTITUTED, AND FY 1975 MARKS THE RE-INITIATION OF ARMY PARTICIPATION. THE IAGS TRAINING (REPRESENTING 2/3 OF THE TOTAL ARMY SLOTS) IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE BA. ITS LOSS WOULD BE FELT KEENLY IN ANY CASE, BUT THE NEGATIVE EFFECT WOULD BE HEIGHTENED BY THE REOPENING OF WOUNDS JUST HEALING OVER. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE IAGS TRAINING IN THE CZ COULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR BY TRAINING IN THE US (AT THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY, FOR EXAMPLE). I AM TOLD THAT IT IS UNLIKELY.

3. EVEN IF THE IAGS TRAINING COULD BE SHIFTED TO THE US, WE WOULD STILL HAVE THE VERY DIFFICULT QUESTION OF MTT'S. THESE ARE A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN OUR MILITARY PROGRAM HERE, AND THEIR ELIMINATION WOULD BE A DEFINITE SETBACK TO ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS. FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTED TO MEETING EMERGING AND SOMETIMES UNFORESEEN NEEDS, THEY ARE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND THEIR WORK IS WELL REGARDED IN ALL THE BRAZILIAN SERVICES. OUR FIGURES SHOW THAT IN FY 74 WE WILL HAVE HAD 11 MTT'S COMPOSED OF 25 MEMBERS, AND OUR EXPECTATION FOR FY 75 IS THAT BOTH NUMBERS WILL RISE APPRECIABLY. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO FORESEE WHAT THE EXACT FIGURES ON MTT'S WILL BE BECAUSE OF THE FREQUENTLY AD HOC NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS THEY ARE BROUGHT IN TO RESOLVE. (WHEN A NEED FOR AN MTT ARISES, THE BRAZILIAN SERVICES JUGGLE THEIR TRAINING SLOTS IN THE CZ AND THE US IN ORDER TO STAY WITHIN THE OVERALL TRAINING FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THEM.) I AM SATISFIED THAT TO MAKE THE BRAZILIANS MOVE TO FINANCE THE MTT'S FROM THEIR OWN RESOURCES WOULD BE RESENTED, PARTICULARLY AFTER THEY JUST OVERCAME TEN PER CENT DIFFICULTIES. ALTHOUGH I THINK IT UNLIKELY, I CANNOT SAY WITH ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE THAT THE BRAZILIAN ARMED SERVICES MIGHT NOT BUY THE SERVICES OF SOME CRITICAL MTT'S. I AM SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEED TO PURCHASE MTT SERVICES HERETOFORE AVAILABLE ON A GRANT BASIS WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS ANOTHER "EVIDENCE" OF US UNRELIABILITY AND UNPREDICTABILITY IN THE MILITARY FIELD.

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4. I AM AFRAID THAT THE ARGUMENT OF BRAZILIAN SACRIFICE IN FAVOR OF ECUADOR WOULD NOT BE PERSUASIVE TO THE BRAZILIANS. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND THE LINK BETWEEN OUR INTEREST IN MAP TRAINING FOR ECUADOR AND THE FISHING BOAT PROBLEM (AND, BY EXTENSION, LOS ISSUES). THE EXPECTED BRAZILIAN ADVERSE REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT BE ASSUAGED BY THE IRONY

OF--IN EFFECT--BRAZIL'S "PAYING" FOR AN IMPROVEMENT, IN A MORE OR LESS LOS CONTEXT, OF US RELATIONS WITH ONE OF BRAZIL'S FEW REMAINING LOS ALLIES, OR NEAR-ALLIES. IN THE SECOND PLACE, THE GOB IS JUST NOT PREPARED, I BELIEVE, TO BE MAGNANIMOUS IN FAVOR OF "LITTLE COUNTRIES" UNLESS THERE IS SOMETHING TANGIBLE IN IT FOR BRAZIL--AND HERE THERE IS A NET COST TO BRAZIL. I DO NOT WANT TO OVERDRAW THESE POINTS, BUT THE GOB HAS LITTLE PATIENCE WITH WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE A SORT OF US FUZZY-MINDEDNESS IN ITS CONCERN ABOUT THE SMALLER COUNTRIES. PLEASE SEE THE ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSION IN THE EBERLE MEETINGS HERE OF THE "COMPETITIVE NEED" TEST OF THE GSP.

5. THERE WOULD ALSO BE, OF COURSE, A REACTION OF: "WHY PICK ON US OF ALL COUNTRIES--YOUR BEST FRIEND." IN THE OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS IS NOT A VERY MATURE ATTITUDE, BUT IT IS INEVITABLE.

6. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, I CONCLUDE THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT SIT AT ALL WELL WITH THE GOB. THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THE PRESENT PROPOSAL MIGHT BE MADE PALATABLE WOULD BE TO (A) ASSURE THAT THE IAGS TRAINING IN THE CZ IS SHIFTED TO THE US; AND (B) FIND SOME WAY TO PROVIDE MTT'S AT NO COST TO THE GOB. IF EITHER ONE OF THESE MODIFICATIONS IS IMPOSSIBLE, THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE DROPPED. CRIMMINS UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY TRAINING, LAW, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY SCHOOLS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE095241
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PM:JAWILLIAMS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740112-0439
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740563/aaaacero.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: STATE 089030
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAP TRAINING FOR BRAZIL
TAGS: MASS, BR, EC, PQ, US
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005